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#### NEW EQUIPMENT EXPEDITES USSR PETROLEUM OUTPUT

With the emphasis on better equipment and more efficient methods, recent reports on the Soviet petroleum industry evidence improvements in offshore and double-shaft drilling as well as in the introduction of a new core-sampling station and a better process of demulsifying petroleum.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

The difficulties of drilling for petroleum at sea made it necessary to improve the design of the derrick base. Three engineers, Mezhlumov, Orudzhev, and Safarov, met the challenge and proposed an original design which has been successfully adopted and is known as the MOS from the initials of the inventors. The improvement in the base was made by consolidating the blocks of which it consisted in such a way that three could be used in place of the former six. This accelerated construction and decreased consumption of metal, and the Azmor-neft' Association was able to construct more bases in 1950 alone than the trust for offshore drilling had built in 7 years. As a result of this success, it has become possible to increase both exploratory and exploitational drilling.(1)

A group of petroleum workers, headed by O. A. Mezhlumov, received a Stalin Prize for developing and introducing double-shaft drilling for petroleum and gas wells. This process increased productivity per worker 50 percent, decreased drilling time 30 percent, and reduced costs of drilling 20 percent per meter.(2)

Aga Neymatulla also received a Stalin Prize for his participation in the development and introduction of the above-mentioned double-shaft method. In addition to this achievement, he has recently drilled the last meters of the first three-shaft oil well in Azerbaydzhan. All three shafts are drilled from one derrick, by one brigade, using a single set of equipment. The openings of the three wells are side by side within a radius of not more than half a meter. All three go straight down at first and then branch out to the side in a fan-like arrangement.

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This extremely complicated operation was carried out far from shore on an artificial island in a stormy sea. Nevertheless the wells were drilled with precision, and the schedule for drilling each of them was surpassed 23 to 25 days with a saving of more than 600,000 rubles.

Neymatulla has been at this work for 36 years and is one of the best drilling experts in the country. Seven years ago, he received a Stalin Prize for developing and introducing widely a method of continuous drilling of sloping wells. In the past 2 years alone, he has saved the country 1.5 million rubles.(3)

A new core-sampling station for the study of bores has been designed in the Electrical Engineering Institute of Communications imeni Bonch-Bruyevich at Leningrad. The core-sampling station now in use operates with a multistrand cable which has a large diameter; this complicates exploratory work and requires cumbersome hoisting equipment. The core-sampling station designed by the Leningrad scholars uses a single-strand cable, and experiments carried on in oil fields of the Azneft' Association indicate that it is an ideal device for core sampling in the case of deep wells. The apparatus of the new station attached to a one-strand cable can be let down without loss of time into wells filled with heavy and sticky drilling fluid which interfered with letting down the usual triple-strand cable. The productivity of the new apparatus is several times higher than the semiautomatic core-sampling apparatus now in use. The sensitivity and precision of the new instruments are considerably higher than all existing USSR-made and foreign models.(4)

The chief of the demulsifying installation of the Emba Sagiz oil field has developed a cold process for demulsifying petroleum. In the former hot process, light but very valuable constituents of the petroleum were evaporated; in the new cold process, these are retained. A saving of 205,000 rubles worth of fuel, electric power, and materials per year will be effected by the introduction of this process.(5)

#### SOURCES

1. Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 22 Mar 51
2. Moscow, Pravda, 19 Mar 51
3. Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 29 Mar 51
4. Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 31 Mar "
5. Moscow, Trud, 28 Mar 51

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